

GI and Community Engagement in Detroit

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The Greening of Detroit





The Greening of Detroit:

🌱 Celebrating 25 years of community service in Detroit

We build community relationships through:

🌱 Green Infrastructure

🌱 Workforce Development

🌱 Urban Agriculture



Community Engagement should:

- ✿ Inform
- ✿ Gather feedback
- ✿ Educate
- ✿ Gain support
- ✿ Increase value and adoption of projects
- ✿ Guide policy decisions



**Community Engagement
has the capability to:**

- ✿ Resolve misunderstanding**
- ✿ Clarify misinformation**
- ✿ Build stewardship/
volunteer opportunities**
- ✿ Organize communities**

For Community Engagement to work all stakeholders should understand:



- **Your past, present and future relationship with community**
- **Project goals (without jargon) and timelines**
- **Benefits to community**
- **The community's role**



Green Infrastructure definitions:

- An inter-connected network of green open spaces that provide a range of ecosystem services (Rouse, Bunster-Ossa)
- An approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle (American Rivers).



Community Engagement strategies:

- 25 years of relationships established community groups
- Work with City Council and State Representative offices
- Establish ongoing working partnerships with neighborhood NGO's, CDC/CDO's, UA networks
- Community Ambassadors



Building community assets and opportunities:

- Greening Pistons Palace Parks program has maintained 17 parks and held 46 events for 2044 adults and youth in past three years
- Our Greenways initiative allows us to maintain three vital greenways and hold free events for 783 adults in past two years

Creating stewardship opportunities:

- Greening has engaged 38,838 volunteers in past 25 years
- Our Citizen Forester program has trained and activated 150 Detroit and SE Michigan residents to lead planting volunteers
- Our youth workforce programs has hired 1380 Detroit teenagers with total wages of \$1.4 million





Thank you

